AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

At page 24, please replace the first full paragraph with the following:

According to the invention, the bacterial origin of the Z_{IgA} affinity reagent addresses the problem of false positive signals associated with human serum antibodies in capture immunoassays, through the use of Affibody®/antibody reagent combinations in a sandwich assay method. By combining reagents displaying non-matched specificities, the signals observed with each system after incubation with serum could be linked to the presence of cross-linking antibodies. All combinations of two antibodies (goat pAb, mouse mAb and/or rat mAb) resulted in different levels of cross-linking, in some cases also after diluting the serum pool 3,125 times (Fig 3A). In contrast, none of the combinations of antibodies for capture and Affibody® molecules for detection, or vice versa, were cross-linked (Fig 3B). Noteworthy, although ~~although~~ antibody reactivity with non-modified framework regions of the *S. aureus* protein A-derived Affibody® molecules could be expected as a result of natural exposure to bacteria, the combination of two Affibody® molecules displaying different specificities (Z_{RSV} and Z_{Apo}-b) were not cross-linked by human sera (Fig 3B).